hochuuami presents

# April Fool

by Asato Eiri

oneshot

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Spring Dream, a 16 page read!

FIRST TIME IN PRINT!!

あさとえいり

EIRI ASATO

APRIL FOOL

# エイプリル・フール

April 4
RIP
I THINK THAT'S ALL I NEED FOR MY FIRST DAY.
I DON'T THINK I MISSED ANYTHING
CSFX: FLIP FLIP FLIP
April
4 Thu
2 Fri
APRIL FOOL'S DAY, HUH...

4 April
When I get home Hiroki will be back
1 Thu
2 Fri
3 Sat
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LYING TO MYSELF
erase
erase
HARUKI, YOUR SHIRT FOR YOUR NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION TOMORROW
I'M GOING NOW
OH, DEAR, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TAKEN A BATH?
rattle
BUT I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.

MY BIG BROTHER HIROKI DISAPPEARED IN THE SPRING 5 YEARS AGO
I WAS WORRIED FOR A WHILE SINCE HIROKI ISN'T AROUND ANYMORE,
HARUKI IS JUST WORKING HARD TO FOLLOW IN HIS BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS.
YOU'VE BECOME SO RELIABLE THESE PAST FIVE YEARS, HARUKI.
AND NOW YOUR FUTURE WITH THE COMPANY IS ON SOLID GROUND.
..NO, HE DIED HE NEVER CAME BACK.
HIROKI!
I KILLED HIM.
THIS IS MY BROTHER'S PLACE
DID YOU REMEMBER EVERY-THING?
I SAID I'M OKAY

NOTHING'S CHANGED, THE CHERRY TREES ARE STILL BURSTING WITH COLOR
BUT FIVE YEARS AGO, DURING THE SPRING OF OUR SENIOR YEAR, ALL THIS LOOKED DIFFERENT
THE AREA OF THE CONCRETE RIVERBANK HIDDEN BY THE BLOSSOMS.
HIRO, IS TODAY REALLY OKAY?
IT'S YOUR LAST DAY OFF BEFORE THE BUSINESS TRIP, AFTER TODAY IT'LL BE YEARS BEFORE WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
HIRO, YOU PROMISED THAT YOU WOULD GO ACROSS FIRST!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING THIS NOW
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THE WATER'S RISING A BIT, BUT THE WOOD'S WIDE ENOUGH
Letter Please レタープリーズ
リニューアル号どうだった？ ZEROの先生たちも気合入ってたっぽ。お便り送ってねっ
宛先
〒102-0083 東京都千代田区麹町6-4-25 ローヘル麹町ビル7F
㈱ビブロス マガジンZERO編集部
あさとえいり 先生

I WANT TO BUILD BRIDGES, YOU KNOW, DO IT FOR A LIVING!
OF COURSE, YOUR BATTLE ARMOR ISN'T A BUSINESS SUIT LIKE ME. YOU CONNECT THINGS.
I ALWAYS KEEP THAT IN MIND.
OF COURSE NOT! DURING THE TRIAL RUNS IT DIDN'T BREAK ONCE!
WITH JUST YOUR WEIGHT ON IT, HIRO, THIS IS NOTHING.
WHAT IS IT, HIROKI, DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE?
DON'T THINK IT CAN HOLD ON UNTIL I GET BACK TO THE RIVERBANK?
HIRO, LOOK OUT!
HIRO!
MY BROTHER WAS STILL ON THE BRIDGE MODEL WHEN IT SHATTERED.

THE PLANKS THAT WE HAD LAID NEAR THE TOP OF THE RIVER HAD FLIPPED, AND THE WOOD THAT HAD SHATTERED, WITH THE RISING CURRENT THAT WAS A RESULT OF THE ENDLESS RAIN, HAD SWEPT MY BROTHER AWAY AS IF HE WERE A DOLL.
THERE WASN'T EVEN ANY TIME FOR ME TO HOLD OUT MY HAND.
BOTH THE SPLINTERS OF WOOD AND MY BROTHER WERE SWEPT AWAY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
I'M HOME.
CLICK
HARUKI
It's been more than 5 years since he disappeared
HIROKI, HE'S...
HUH?
WELCOME HOME, HARUKI. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
We'd all assumed that he was dead.

SLAM
(SFX: STOMP STOMP STOMP)
WHAT'S GOING ON,
DRAGGING YOUR PRODIGAL OLDER BROTHER OUTSIDE AFTER HE JUST CAME BACK HOME?
YOUR BATTLE ARMOR ISN'T A BUSINESS SUIT, YOU CONNECT THINGS. SO THIS WAS INEVITABLE, I GUESS.
THAT SUIT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU.
So who is this?

I HAD AMNESIA UNTIL NOW.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT?
I KNOW IT'S APRIL FOOL'S DAY,
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO SO FAR AS TO MAKE MOM AND DAD HAPPY BY COMING BACK. IT'S A BAD JOKE
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
My brother had an aura of indifference.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CUTE LITTLE BROTHER THAT I USED TO KNOW?
<SFX SLAP!?
SMACK
YOU MAY LOOK LIKE HIM, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ME.
I WAS JUST PLAYING AT THE DUTIFUL ELDEST SON, RELIABLE OLDER BROTHER BIT.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO PLAY ANY OF THOSE ROLES FOR A WHILE, AND THINGS HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER
THIS IS THE REAL ME
MY BROTHER WOULD NEVER MESS WITH PEOPLE'S MINDS LIKE THAT!

THAT'S WHY
I GAVE UP MAKING...
GET REAL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE BACK, WANTING TO TAKE MY PLACE!
Pant Pant
ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT IT WAS MY FAULT THAT YOU'D DIED!
I WORKED THAT MUCH HARDER AT THE COMPANY, TO DO YOUR PART AND MINE!
This isn't happening...
AREN'T WE IN A RECESSION NOW?
I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE IN SOME BACK ALLEY, SO I FIGURED IT WAS TIME TO GO BACK AND PATCH THINGS UP.
IN COMING BACK TO MY WEALTHY FAMILY, I'D BE WELCOMED INTO THE BUSINESS YOU SEE AS THE SON OF THE COMPANY PRESIDENT
Shut up!
LOOKS LIKE MY BELOVED YOUNGER BROTHER'S TRIED TO FILL MY SHOES IN MY ABSENCE
BUT I'M BETTER AT THIS THAN YOU ARE SO I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT UP

CLICK
CLICK
WHAT?
SO NOW THAT YOU KNOW MY MOTIVES,
LET'S GO DO WHAT I PROMISED
HEY,
WHERE ...
Shhhhaaaaaa
I'M NOT CROSSING THAT AGAIN
W... WHY IS THE RIVER
BACK TO THE WAY IT USED TO BE?

DO YOU BELIEVE NOW?
snicker
HIRO. .?
The bridge, it should be gone...
THAT BRIDGE
IS GOING TO BREAK!
NO!

SEE?
YOU TESTED IT A THOUSAND TIMES, RIGHT?
IT'LL BE OKAY.
I CAN FINALLY
KEEP MY PROMISE TO YOU.
HIRO, HURRY!
HURRY AND GET BACK ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER!

Shaa~
I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR..
I'LL HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE EVEN FURTHER NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HIRO?
!
ROAR

STAY RIGHT THERE,
I'LL MAKE ANOTHER BRIDGE!
NO! DON'T GO!
EVEN IF IT'S ACROSS THE RIVER STYX
I'LL MAKE A BRIDGE THAT'LL REACH YOU ANYWHERE!

IS THIS FOR ME?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS.
NOT GOING TO LIE ABOUT ANOTHER PLACE SETTING ANYMORE, SO JUST EAT IT.
UNTIL YESTERDAY.. I'VE BEEN
LYING TO EVERYONE, EVEN TO MYSELF.
WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING...
WAIT FOR ME...
WHAT I REALLY WANTED MOST OF ALL WAS A BRIDGE TO MY SOUL...
ZERO 零 END